Union Membership - 2014

- Union membership continued to trend down in 2014, declining to 11.1 percent from 20.1 percent in 1983
- A larger share of public-sector employees are union members than private-sector workers
- Union membership rates vary by industry
- Median weekly earnings are higher for union members than for nonunion workers
- Union membership rates vary by state
- The demographic profile of union members has changed over time
Union Membership Rates, 1983 - 2014

Note: The union membership rate is the proportion of wage and salary workers that are members of a union or an employee association similar to a union. Self-employed and unpaid family workers are not included.
Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), annual averages.
Union Membership Rate is Lower in the Private Sector Than in the Public Sector

Union membership rate

- **Public-sector union membership rate**: 36.7% (1983) to 35.7% (2013)
- **Private-sector union membership rate**: 16.8% (1983) to 6.6% (2013)

Note: Prior to 2000, private-sector data refer to the nonagricultural private sector.
Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), annual averages.
Number of Union Members in the Private and Public Sectors Similar in 2014

Number of union members

In millions

11.9 M

Private-sector union members

5.7 M

Public-sector union members

Note: Prior to 2000, private-sector data refer to the nonagricultural private sector.
Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), annual averages.
Union Membership Rates are Highest in the Public Sector

- Public sector: 36%
- Local government: 42%
- State government: 30%
- Federal government: 28%
- Private sector: 7%

Union Membership Rates in Private Sector

Private sector: 7%
Transportation & utilities: 20%
*Telecommunications: 15%
Construction: 14%
Educational services: 12%
Manufacturing: 10%
Information: 9%
Health care & social assistance: 7%
Arts, entertainment & recreation: 7%
Mining, quarrying & oil and gas: 5%
Wholesale & retail trade: 4%
Management, admin. & waste services: 4%
Real estate & rental & leasing: 4%
Other services, except private household: 3%
Accommodation & food services: 3%
Professional & technical services: 1%
Finance & insurance: 1%
Agriculture & related: 1%

Note: Educational services includes private education. Public education is included in the public sector.
*Telecommunications is included in Information, which is shown separately.
Union Membership Rates by Occupation

- **Farming, fishing, and forestry**: 35%
- **Sales and related occupations**: 18%
- **Food preparation and serving related**: 17%
- **Management, business, and financial operations**: 16%
- **Personal care and service**: 15%
- **Healthcare support**: 13%
- **Production**: 10%
- **Installation, maintenance, and repair**: 9%
- **Transportation and material moving**: 9%
- **Office and administrative support**: 6%
- **Construction and extraction**: 5%
- **Professional and related occupations**: 4%
- **Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance**: 3%
- **Protective services**: 3%
- **Food preparation and serving related**: 3%

*Note: Education, training, and library occupations are included in Professional and related occupations, which also is shown separately.

Median Weekly Earnings Higher Among Union Members Than Nonunion Workers

Constant 2014 dollars

Union members

Nonunion workers

Median weekly earnings

Note: Earnings are median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers and have been converted to constant dollars using the Consumer Price Index research series (CPI-U-RS).

Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), annual averages.
Union Membership by Age, 1983 and 2014
Annual Averages

1983
- 65% 16 - 44 years old
- 35% 45 years old and over

2014
- 49% 16 - 44 years old
- 51% 45 years old and over

Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), annual averages.
Union Membership by Race, 1983 and 2014 Annual Averages

Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), annual averages.
Union Membership by Gender, 1983 and 2014 Annual Averages

Source: Current Population Survey (CPS), annual averages.